

Serial No.: 09/729,924
Atty. Docket No.: P66152US0

REMARKS

The restriction requirement has been carefully reviewed and by this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1-12 and 15-19. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application; claims 1, 13 and 14 are independent. Claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn.

As an initial matter, Applicants have corrected informalities noted in the specification, including the addition of headings and the correction of informalities in the abstract. Further, the text added to page 3 of the specification represents the subject matter of the claim which was previously improperly referenced; accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In the Requirement for Restriction mailed April 19, 2005, the Examiner stated that the captioned application includes three distinct inventions: Invention I, claims 1-12 and 15-19, drawn to a connection system and method of use, classified in class 604, subclass 4.01; Invention II, claim 13, drawn to a female connecting element, classified in class 604, subclass 538; and Invention III, claim 14, drawn to a male connecting element, classified in class 604, subclass 538.

Applicants hereby elect Invention I directed to the connection system and method of use, without traverse. Claims 1-12 and 15-19 read on the elected invention.

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Having elected Invention I, the Examiner further required that Applicants elect a single species from among Species IA (claim 3), Species IB (claim 4), and Species IC (claim 5). Applicants hereby elect Species 1C. Claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 15-19 read on the elected species.

While electing a single species as required, Applicants note and appreciate the Examiner's recognition that claim 2 is generic and that, upon allowance of claim 2, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141. Applicants further note that claim 1, as the claim underlying generic claim 2, is also generic.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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